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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JFKING:HHB
APPROVED BY S/PRS - JOHN F. KING
S/S - WHLUERS
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O 260037Z MAR 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 059874

TOSEC 39

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR
SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, MONDAY, MARCH 25

FOR VEST FROM KING

SUMMARY: NEWSPAPERS AND WIRE SERVICES LEAD WITH STRAIGHT ACCOUNTS OF SECRETARY REMARKS ON ARRIVAL MOSCOW, ACCOMPANIED BY LENGTHY RUN-DOWNS ON PURPOSE OF VISIT TO SOVIET UNION AND UPDATERS ON BONN STOPOVER. END SUMMARY

1. NYT GIVES OFF-LEAD P1 TO RICK SMITH WHO HIGHLIGHTS OPTIMISM IN SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON MOSCOW ARRIVAL. NOTES THAT SENIOR US OFFICIAL TRAVELING WITH PARTY REPORTED THAT DOBRYNIN, ALSO ACCOMPANYING, HAD RELAYED TO HAK INITIAL SOVIET INTEREST/REACTIONS TO LATEST US SALT PROPOSALS. STORY GOES ON AT LENGTH TOUCHING ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED DURING HAK'S FOUR DAY VISIT. TIMES INSIDE (P18) HAS 8-GRAF SHIRTTAILER FROM MOSCOW, PRESUMABLY GWERTZMAN BUT UNSIGNED, REPORTING US OFFICIALS ABOARD HAK PLANE JUDGING US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS "HEALTHIER" (IN QUOTES) AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC SQUABBLING OVER PAST THREE WEEKS. THIS
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OFFICIAL IS EXTREMELY PLEASED, AFTER HAK'S TALKS

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WITH FRG LEADERS, BY THE CONCILIATORY RESPONSES OF THE
EUROPEANS TO STRONG AMERICAN CRITICISMS OF RECENT DAYS.
OFFICIAL CONTINUED THAT US DECISION TO TAKE EUROPEAN
"HOSTILITY" (IN QUOTES) HEAD ON WAS A DELIBERATE ONE, BUT

ONE THAT WAS PUT INTO EFFECT POORLY. OFFICIAL CONCLUDES
THAT EUROPEANS SEEM TO RESPOND IN POSITIVE WAY TO HARSH
WORDS, AND US STATEMENTS OF PAST FORTNIGHT HAVE SHAKEN
EUROPE FROM VIEW THAT IT COULD HAVE BOTH BENEFITS OF
US MILITARY SUPPORT AND PRIVILEGES OF NARROW FORM OF
EUROPEAN UNITY. NO DIRECT QUOTATIONS APPEAR FROM
BACKGROUND SESSIONS BEYOND THOSE CITED.

2. WASHPOST HAS MARDER ALL OVER P1 WITH TWO BYLINERS
"MOSCOW VISIT BEGINS WITH OPTIMISM" AND "US COOLS ON
ALLIED CHARTERS." IN FIRST STORY, MARDER LIKE SMITH
CATCHES UPBEAT NOTE IN HAK'S MOSCOW ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND
CONTRASTS THIS WITH HIS MORE GUARDED OUTLINE OF EXPECTA-
TIONS VOICED IN THURSDAY PRESS CONFERENCE. BASIS FOR
THE NEW OPTIMISM IS HAK'S PRELIMINARY TALKS ON SALT
WITH DOBRYNIN LAST WEEK AND DOBRYNIN'S OWN STATEMENT
TO TRAVELING PRESS CORPS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOW
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR NEW PROGRESS IN RELATIONS
(SIC). MARDER GOES ON: DOBRYNIN GAVE NO INDICATION
THAT IMPEACHMENT THREAT HANGING OVER PRESIDENT NIXON IS
CURBING SOVIET INTEREST IN SOV-AMERICAN DETENTE POLICY.
BY IMPLICATION, THIS (SOV) POSTURE PUTS THE SOVIETS IN
THE ADVANTAGEOUS DIPLOMATIC POSITION OF HOLDING THEMSELVES
BLAMELESS IF ANYTHING GOES AWRY IN SOV-AMERICAN RELATIONS.
THE NEW OPTIMISM THAT HAK SUDDENLY EXPRESSED ON HIS
ARRIVAL MOSCOW COULD SERVE A COMPARABLE TACTICAL PURPOSE
FOR US INTERESTS. STORY THEN DELVES INTO PROMISING SALT
PROSPECTS (CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH POSSIBILITY), BRIEFLY
THE MIDDLE EAST, AND LENGTHILY THE THIRD MOST IMPORTANT
TOPIC, ACC MARDER, ANOTHER CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH ON
MBFR. IN HIS COMPANION SIDEBAR (DISCUSSED IN TELCON
EARLIER), MARDER DWELLS ON POSSIBILITY THAT TWIN ATLANTIC
DECLARATIONS MAY NEVER SEE LIGHT OF DAY, AND QUOTES US
SOURCE THAT SUCH A TURN OF EVENTS "NOT INCONCEIVABLE."
THIS ONLY DIRECT QUOTE FROM APPARENT BACKGROUND SESSION
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IN TOTAL MARDER COVERAGE.

3. WALL ST. JOURNAL HAD NO COPY FROM KEATLEY.

4. CHICAGO TRIBUNE (STARR) HAS LENGTHY STORY INSIDE (P7)
NOTING HAK'S HOPES FOR SALT BREAKTHROUGH. STORY NOTES
HIGH UP, IN REPORTING BONN STOPOVER, HINTS THAT THE
ATLANTIC DECLARATIONS MIGHT BE DROPPED. EVEN SO, STORY

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REPORTS FARTHER DOWN, US OFFICIALS LEFT BONN WITH
BRIGHTER VIEW OF THE EUROPEAN TENSION (SIC). "I BELIEVE
RELATIONS WITH EUROPE TODAY ARE HEALTHIER THAN THEY WERE
THREE WEEKS AGO," SAID ONE OFFICIAL. THIS INCIDENTALLY,
IS STARR'S ONLY USE OF DIRECT QUOTES. BALANCE OF HIS

RATHER COMPLETE STORY A WRAP-UP OF STATE OF PLAY ON SALT
(BIG ISSUE MIRVS, VERIFICATION FADING AS A PROBLEM),
SOVIET ACQUIESCENCE IN US ME PEACE EFFORTS, AND HAK'S
ENCOURAGEMENT TO GERMANS IN PURSUING POLITICAL GROUP
CONSULTATION FORMULA.

4. AP LEADS MARCH 25 ONITER WITH BREZHNEV'S OPTIMISM
ON PROSPECTS FOR SALT II. BALANCE OF STORY PULLS
TOGETHER QUOTES FROM RANKING FIGURES ON BOTH SIDES TO
CONVEY IMPRESSION OF UPBEAT MOOD ON MOST ISSUES CONFRONT-
ING TWO COUNTRIES.

5. REUTERS SIMILARLY PLAYS OPTIMISM THEME, LEADING WITH
HAK TELLING SOVIET LEADERS THAT IN REMAINING THREE YEARS
OF NIXON ADMINISTRATION HE HOPES TO MAKE SOVIET-US
DETENTE IRREVERSIBLE. NELSON'S STORY ALSO DRAWS
WATERGATE INTO EQUATION, NOTING QUESTIONS IN US WHETHER
NIXON, FACING POSSIBILITY OF IMPEACHMENT THIS SPRING,
WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT MOSCOW IN JUNE TO SIGN NEW ARMS
AGREEMENT. NIXON'S UNCERTAIN POLITICAL FUTURE, ACC
NELSON, HAS ALSO CALLED IN QUESTION THE FUTURE OF US
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD.
A SUCCESSOR, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, MIGHT NOT PURSUE
THE POLICIES HE INITIATED. NELSON GOES ON TO QUOTE
GEORGIY ARBATOV TELLING US REPORTERS TODAY THAT SOVS
DEAL WITH THE US RATHER THAN ANY OF ITS INDIVIDUAL
LEADERS, AND WHILE NIXON AND HAK HAVE MADE PERSONAL
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CONTRIBUTIONS, ARBATOV CREDITS DETENTE TO OBJECTIVE
POLITICAL FORCES WITHIN AMERICA. RUSH

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TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, UR, US, XG, FR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: MOSCOW
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